

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Meeting Minutes: September 7, 2011

Members in Attendance: Julia Forgue, Fred Kurdziel, Frank McLynch, Gene Park, Bill Patenaude, Jon Schock and Tom White

**Others in Attendance: Marisa Desautel, Esq. and Traci Pena, RIDEM
Kyle Naylor, Briarcliffe Nursing Home
and Robert Silva, Septic Preservation Services**

Mr. Patenaude called the September 7, 2011 meeting to order. The first order of business was the review of the draft August 3 meeting minutes.

Mr. White motioned to approve the August 2011 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. McLynch seconded the motion. The motion passed with all eligible members present voting in favor. Dr. Park and Mr. Schock abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

The next item to be discussed was compliance with package plant re-grading. Mr. Patenaude announced that the Town of Tiverton School Department's Grade 1 operator passed the Grade 2 exam, putting the facility into compliance. However, the Briarcliffe wastewater facility operator did not pass the spring 2011 Grade 2 exam. Based on the last meeting, a Notice of Deficiency was sent to

Briarcliffe advising them of this and requiring that they come into compliance with the Regulations. Messrs. Naylor and Silva attended the meeting to address the Board and advise it of their strategy to come into compliance. Mr. Naylor sought for Mr. Silva to attain a Grade 2 license so that he could be the operator of record until an eventual tie-in to a sewer line or the construction of a subsurface system allows the decommissioning of the current treatment facility. Mr. Silva works for a firm that provides contract operational activity and according to Mr. Naylor would work at Briarcliffe “as much as needed to properly operate the facility.” For the present time, Mr. Naylor requested that Mr. Silva be issued a Grade 2 Provisional license until the November exam, per Rule 10 of the regulations. Mr. Silva possesses a Grade 2 license from the State of Maine via reciprocity with his Grade 2 license from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Mr. Patenaude noted that these licenses would be equivalent to Rhode Island’s Grade 1 license. Because of this, Mr. Schock suggested that the Board issue Mr. Silva a Grade 1 license through reciprocity and allow him to attain a six-month Grade 2 provisional license. Mr. Patenaude noted that such issuances would be pending a review and approval of Mr. Silva’s formal application.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to issue Mr. Silva a Grade 1 license through reciprocity and to issue a Grade 2 Provisional license should Mr. Silva’s subsequent application be approved by the Chair; the provisional license would be specific to the Briarcliffe facility. Mr. Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Board

members voting in favor.

At the previous Board Meeting, the Board reviewed a request by the Town of West Warwick that Mr. James DiCaprio be issued a Grade 4 Provisional License to hold the Assistant Superintendent's Position and to take the Grade 4 examination under Rule 10 of the Rules and Regulations. At the time of the meeting there were questions related to Mr. DiCaprio's time in service in direct responsible charge. These questions were clarified prior to the exam; however, as Mr. DiCaprio did not pass the exam, the request for a provisional license became moot and will not be acted upon. Mr. Patenaude noted that the Town has since posted the Assistant Superintendents position. This matter was made for informational purposes only, as no action was needed.

The next item was Regulations Revisions/Mandatory Training Proposals. Mr. Patenaude noted that he wished to meet with the state's superintendents to discuss the draft regulations and as such asked the full board to approve them. During general discussions of the regulations, Mr. Schock (who was not at the previous meeting) commented that he does not understand why a treatment plant would have two Assistant Superintendents (which the draft regulations would allow) and would like to avoid any problem that such a scenario may create. Mr. Patenaude responded that in larger plants such a scenario would be beneficial, and it would also allow more operators to gain valuable experience. Mr. Schock also commented on the definition of full-time, specifically that the definition should be

limited to one facility in Rhode Island. Mr. Patenaude noted that in the past, experience was allowed to be attained at more than one facility. Mr. Schock also wanted to use another word for “sit” in relation to exams, perhaps “in order to be eligible”. Mr. Kurdziel thought the definition of full-time should be exclusive to time put in at the plant, and not include travel time, for example.

Mr. Patenaude motioned to move the draft Regulation to the Stakeholder process with any needed edits. Mr. White seconded the motion. Dr. Park, Ms. Forge, and Messrs. McLynch, Kurdziel, White and Patenaude voted in the affirmative; Mr. Schock voted in the negative. As such, the motion passed.

Mr. Patenaude reviewed the August 2011 exam results, and noted that future exam postings would be revised based on confusion with the current format.

With no further business, Mr. Patenaude motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Schock, the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the RIDEM Office located at 235 Promenade St., Providence, RI.